

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 20, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 20, 2004.

Claims 1-30 are pending in the Application.

Claims 1, 5, and 11 are amended in the Application.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-15 under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite for failing to point out particularly and claim distinctly the claimed subject matter.

The Office Action rejected Claim 1 because the claims was incomplete due to a missing phrase at the end of Claim 1. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to correct the clerical error by completing the missing phrase in Claim 1 with the phrase, "and back to the vessel". Support for this amendment is found in the in Paragraph [00018] of the Specification as filed.

Applicants believe that no new matter has been added with these amendments. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in light of these amendments and the remarks discussed herein.

II. Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to Claims 5, 11, and 26 because the claims were dependent from high number claims.

Applicants have amended Claims 5 and 11 to the correct the clerical error by correcting the dependency. Applicants, however, believe that Claim 26 as filed correctly depends on Claim

25. Applicants have not amended Claim 26. If the Applicants have made a mistake, Applicant invite the Examiner to contact the Applicant's attorney to clarify and correct this matter.

Applicants believe that no new matter has been added with these amendments. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in light of these amendments and the remarks discussed herein.

III. Double Patenting

The Office Action provisionally rejected Claims 1-30 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-30 of co-pending US Patent Application Serial Number 10/413,767.

Applicant hereby submits a terminal disclaimer with this Response to overcome the provisional double patenting obviousness-type rejection. The terminal disclaimer with associated fee is located in Attachment A.

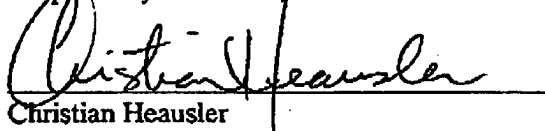
Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in view of this amendment.

Reconsideration of this Application with the amended claims in view of the remarks expressed throughout this Response is respectfully requested.

Date:

6/29/04

Respectfully submitted,



Christian Heausler

Patent Attorney

Reg. No. 50,771

Please mail correspondence to:

Wendy K. Buskop
Buskop Law Group, P.C.
1717 St. James Place, Suite 500
Houston, Texas 77056
713.403.7411

Enclosures:

Attachment A – Terminal Disclaimer